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ANAL SHOWERING DEVICE

The invention relates to an anal showering device.

In the case of haemorrhoids, daily cleansing of the anal region with warm water, several times daily if necessary, is generally recommended to the affected patient in order to support the treatment and alleviate the discomfort. Although this can be performed, with certain limitations, on a toilet with the aid of a shower hose having a standard shower head, it is nevertheless necessary in this case for the patient to pass the shower head between the legs by hand, and to hold it in this position. Not only is this uncomfortable, but it also results in the impurified rinsing water running over the hand of the person concerned. Moreover, when standard shower heads are used, it is scarcely possible to avoid spreading some of the splash water in the area around the toilet.

The invention is therefore based on the object of creating an anal showering device which is intended especially for the purpose of anal showering.

This object is achieved, according to the invention, by an anal showering device having the following features:

- a shower hose which can be coupled to a tapping point;
- an end tube, bent substantially in a U-shape, at the outlet end of the shower hose;
- a spray nozzle at the end of the end tube; and
- a valve for release of the water flow.

In the case of such an anal showering device, the patient is able to hold the U-shaped end tube between the legs from the front, such that the outlet end of the end tube is directed towards the anal region. As a result, the hands are in an elevated position, away from the region to be cleansed, such that there is no risk of the spray water running over the patient's hands.

At the transition from the shower hose to the end tube, there is preferably a handle which incorporates the valve, for instance a valve with a push button for activating the water flow. This handle makes it possible to hold the end tube comfortably and, at the same time, to control the water flow.

Preferably, the limb of the U-shaped end tube that faces towards the shower hose is longer than the limb which carries the spray nozzle, such that the end tube can be held in a relatively high position in front of the patient's abdomen.

Rather than a standard shower head of a showering appliance, a more suitable spray nozzle is a nozzle which emits a bunched, but slightly loosened jet, as is the case with the standard fittings for hand basins.

The shower hose can be connected, in principle, to any bath and shower fitting or also, if applicable, to a hand basin fitting. In order to permit rapid changeover, for example in the case of a shower, between connection of the shower and connection of the anal showering device, quick-release couplings are preferably provided at the intake end of the two shower hoses and at the faucet, so as to provide for rapid connection changeover.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is explained more fully in the following with reference to the appended drawing.

The sole figure of the drawing is a schematic view of an anal showering device according to the invention.

In the drawing, 10 denotes a shower hose. At its intake end, shown at the left in the drawing, the shower hose 10 has a plug-in coupling 12. The outlet end of the shower hose 10 is connected to a handle 14, through which the water flows and which incorporates a valve, not shown, which can be opened by application of pressure to a push button 16 and is closed by spring force.

Connected to the outlet of this handle 14 which constitutes the valve, there is an end tube 18 which, overall, is bent substantially in a U-shape. This end tube 18 has a longer limb 20, which is at the left in the drawing and is connected to the handle 14, and a shorter limb 22, at the end of which there is a

spray nozzle 24. This spray nozzle, which is not shown in detail, is of such design that it emits a loose, but bunched water jet without significant proportions of splash water.

The shape of the end tube 18 is determined, in particular, by the human anatomy. It should offer the possibility of the end tube being able to be passed between the legs from the front, with the patient in the seated position, so that the spray nozzle 24 reaches the anal region, while the end tube can be hand-held, by means of the handle 14, in the lower abdominal region.

In the case of use by a plurality of persons, for instance in hospitals, it may therefore be expedient to provide exchangeable end tubes, in order to take account of various body sizes.

CLAIMS

1. Anal showering device, comprising:
 - a shower hose (10) which can be coupled to a tapping point;
 - an end tube (18), bent substantially in a U-shape, at the outlet end of the shower hose (10);
 - a spray nozzle (24) at the end of the end tube (18); and
 - a valve (16) for release of the water flow.
2. Anal showering device according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the valve (16) is disposed between the shower hose (10) and the end tube (18) and is incorporated in a handle (14) provided there.
3. Anal showering device according to either of Claims 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the U-shaped end tube (18) has a longer limb (20), which is connected to the shower hose (10), respectively to the handle (14), and a shorter limb (22), which carries the spray nozzle (24).
4. Anal showering device according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the spray nozzle (24) is of such design that it emits a loose, bunched water jet without a significant proportion of splash water.
5. Anal showering device according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that**, at its intake end, the shower hose (10) has a plug-in coupling (12) for coupling to a plug-in coupling at the tapping point.